Economic Development Focus Group



Below is the meeting summary for the first Economic Development Focus Group meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to select approximately three strategic topics for further study. In the following three meetings, groups will determine more specific goals and objectives for each topic. All of the Focus Group information will be incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan document which will be considered by the Board of Supervisors later this year.

Meeting Date: 3/3/16 Recorder: Becky James

Meeting Location: South County Library Number of Participants: 62

Number of Small Groups: 6

Host: Supervisor Jason Peters

Lead Staff: Philip Thompson and Jill Loope

Staff Facilitators: Becky James, Brian Hughes, Tori Williams, Jay Brenchick, Anne Marie Green,

Caitlin Gills

MEETING 1 – TOPIC DEVELOPMENT

Topics developed by small groups in no particular order.

- 1. Infrastructure/Transportation
- 2. Economic Growth
- 3. Connectivity
- 4. Population Growth
- 5. Leadership Civic Discourse
- 6. Creating Pro Business Policy
- 7. Incentives for new and existing businesses
- 8. Workforce Development
- Regional Cooperation (partnerships)
- 10. Proactive in attracting and retaining businesses
- 11. Revisiting the tax structure
- 12. Create existing inventory of what we do have
- 13. Recreational/tourism and development
- 14. Are we easy to do businesses with? If not, why not?
- 15. Marketing Roanoke County- brand recognition
- 16. Jobs especially STEM jobs
- 17. Education of existing workforce opportunities
- 18. People workforce
- 19. Sustainability
- 20. Broadband/data (increase in services)

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- 21. Redevelopment of existing sites
- 22. Strengthen our existing partnerships
- 23. Regulations Community Development process
- 24. Environmental Resources (expand and develop)
- 25. Higher education outreach

Most Popular Topics by Group Consensus for Meeting 1

Top 3 most popular Topics selected by group consensus at the end of the evening.

- 1. Infrastructure
- 2. Regional Cooperation and Marketing
- 3. Workforce Development

Additional Comments: